

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
119TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1534, L.D. 2187, "Resolve, to Implement the Study and Report on the Problems of Homeless Youth"

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'Resolve, to Study Youth Homelessness'**

Further amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

**'Sec. 1. Study of youth homelessness. Resolved:** That the study of youth homelessness and the relationship of the general assistance program and homelessness is established. The study must examine, for runaway and homeless youth, community-based options, low-barrier access, assessment, treatment, family mediation and outreach services that are consistent statewide to determine what minimal level of service is required to ensure the safety and well-being of unaccompanied homeless youths. The study must also examine the relationship of the general assistance program and homelessness, including review of the decrease in general assistance program funding in the past 8 years and the effect of that decrease on homelessness.

1. The study must be conducted by a 10-member task force appointed as follows:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

- 2 A. One Senator, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 4 B. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed  
by the Speaker of the House;
- 6 C. One member of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness  
and Housing Opportunities, appointed by the Governor;
- 8 D. One member of the public who has an interest in issues  
10 involving homeless youth, appointed by the Governor;
- 12 E. The Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's  
designee;
- 14 F. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's  
16 designee;
- 18 G. The Commissioner of Human Services or the commissioner's  
designee;
- 20 H. The Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation  
22 and Substance Abuse Services or the commissioner's designee;  
and
- 24 I. The Executive Director of the Maine State Housing  
26 Authority or the executive director's designee.

28 All appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the  
effective date of this resolve. The first-named Senator is the  
30 Senate chair and the first-named member of the House of  
Representatives is the House chair of the task force. When  
32 appointment of all members of the task force is complete the  
cochairs shall call and convene the first meeting, which must be  
34 no later than September 10, 2000.

36 Legislative members of the task force are entitled to receive the  
legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes,  
38 Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement of necessary expenses for  
their attendance at authorized meetings of the task force.  
40 Public members of the task force who are not otherwise  
compensated by their employers or other entities whom they  
42 represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary  
expenses and a per diem equal to the legislative per diem for  
44 their attendance at authorized meetings.

46 2. The study must include the following:

- 48 A. A detailed description of unaccompanied youths by age,  
the services the youths need and the barriers the youths  
50 face;

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- 2 B. A review of all statutes and rules regarding  
4 unaccompanied homeless youths, including all license  
requirements and associated service descriptions;
- 6 C. A review of current funding programs for homeless youths  
8 through the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation  
and Substance Abuse Services and the Department of Human  
10 Services and the relative success of these programs in  
serving homeless youths;
- 12 D. The creation of standards for programs for providers of  
14 services to ensure that these services reach the targeted  
population and that those services are effective;
- 16 E. Identification of potential funding sources that can be  
18 pooled to provide flexibility in serving unaccompanied  
youths;
- 20 F. Identification of the agency responsible for  
22 implementing a runaway youth act;
- 24 G. An examination of legislative proposals for children in  
need of services laws that allow a court to mandate  
26 treatment for youths who desperately need help;
- 28 H. An examination of the general assistance program,  
focusing on the decreased funding provided to the program in  
30 the past 8 years and program effectiveness, administrative  
practices at the local and state level, the cost of  
32 delivering general assistance, client benefits and the  
effect of the program on homelessness; and
- 34 I. Consideration of the work of the Youth in Need of  
36 Services Oversight Committee.
- 38 3. Upon approval of the Legislative Council, the Office of  
Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide necessary staffing  
40 services to the task force.
- 42 4. The task force, with the approval of the Legislative  
Council, may contract with a consultant to provide professional  
44 services regarding homelessness, use of shelters and other  
homeless services for youths and options for funding of homeless  
46 programs and services.
- 48 5. The cochaIRS of the task force, with assistance from the  
task force staff, shall administer the task force budget. Within  
50 10 days after its first meeting, the task force shall present a  
work plan and proposed budget to the Legislative Council for

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approval. The task force may not incur expenses that would result in the task force exceeding its approved budget.

6. By December 1, 2000, the task force shall submit a report of its findings to the Legislature and is authorized to submit implementing legislation. If the task force requires an extension of time to conclude its study and make its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension. Upon submission of its required report, the task force terminates; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Appropriation. Resolved:** That the following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this resolve.

2000-01

## LEGISLATURE

### Task Force to Study Youth Homelessness and the Relationship of the General Assistance Program and Homelessness

Personal Services	\$1,100
All Other	1,000

Provides funds for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and other eligible members of the task force to study youth homelessness and the relationship of the general assistance program and homelessness.

## LEGISLATURE

TOTAL	\$2,100
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## MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY

### Study of Youth Homelessness

All Other	\$20,000
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Provides for the appropriation of funds to study youth homelessness and the relationship of the general assistance program and homelessness.

## MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY

TOTAL	\$20,000
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TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$22,100'
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Further amend the resolve by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

### FISCAL NOTE

2000-01

### APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

General Fund \$22,100

This resolve includes a General Fund appropriation of \$20,000 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Maine State Housing Authority to conduct a study on youth homelessness and the relationship of the general assistance program and homelessness. This resolve also includes a General Fund appropriation of \$2,100 in fiscal year 2000-01 for the Legislature for the per diem and expenses of legislative members and other eligible members of the task force.

The additional costs associated with providing staffing assistance to the task force during the interim between legislative sessions can be absorbed by the Legislature utilizing existing budgeted resources. If an extension of the reporting deadline is granted and the task force requires staffing assistance during the legislative session, the Legislature may require an additional General Fund appropriation to contract for staff services.

The Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, the Department of Human Services, the Maine State Housing Authority and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services will incur some minor additional costs to participate as members of the task force. These costs can be absorbed within the existing budgeted resources of each respective agency.'

### SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the resolve. It changes the title of the resolve to reflect that what is proposed is a study. It restates most of section 1 of the resolve, refocusing the study on youth homelessness, a potential Maine homeless youth system, the recent decreased funding of the general assistance program and the relationship of the program to homelessness. The resolve appropriates \$20,000 for the combined study. It adds an appropriation and a fiscal note to the resolve.